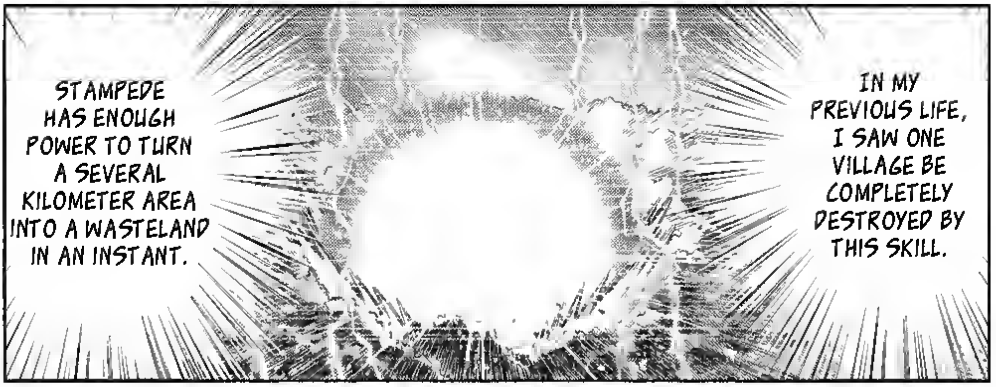
THE SECRET SKILL OF THE FORMIDABLE CRYSTAL WOLF...
THAT'S
STAMPEDE!
CHAPTER 3: FRIENDSHIP VOW


STAMPEDE HAS ENOUGH POWER TO TURN A SEVERAL KILOMETER AREA INTO A WASTELAND IN AN INSTANT.
IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE, I SAW ONE VILLAGE BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY THIS SKILL.

IF IT USES IT NOW, THE DAMAGE WILL REACH THE VILLAGE!
AND WHILE JUST SITTING THERE, CRYSTAL WOLVES ARE COMPLETLY UNHURT. IT'S ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS.

THIS GUY IS BAD NEWS!
YOU TWO, RUN AWAY!
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YOU IDIOT! COME BACK!
JOHN ?
BY NATURE, CRYSTAL WOLVES ARE VERY INTELLIGENT MONSTERS...!
UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, THEY SHOULDN'T BEHAVE LIKE THIS.

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CRYSTAL WOLF! PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
O WISE CRYSTAL WOLF! THERE IS A GOOD REASON WHY YOU WOULD BE ANGRY ENOUGH TO USE STAMPEDE! I KNOW IT!
JOHN! WHAT ARE YOU ...?

I HAVE HEARD THAT EVEN AMONG MONSTERS, YOU CRYSTAL WOLVES REALLY TREASURE YOUR FAMILIES!
COULD IT BE... THAT YOUR FAMILY, EVEN YOUR CUBS ARE LIVING IN THIS FOREST?

AS I THOUGHT!
THIS BEAST UNDERSTANDS MY WORDS.

WE WOULD NEVER HURT YOUR CHILDREN.
SO... COULD YOU PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING THAT POWER?!

O WISE CHILD.
I DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU HEARD THAT, BUT
EVEN IN MY LONG LIFE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I HAVE SEEN SUCH A KNOW-LEDGEABLE AND FEARLESS HUMAN CHILD.
!?
THAT MONSTER CAN UNDER-STAND US...?!
WILL YOU... LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

I SHALL LISTEN.
FOR I DO NOT WISH TO ERASE THIS FOREST.
I WONDER... IS WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE TRUE?

OF COURSE!

I SEE... IT IS NOT AS IF I AM FORCING YOU...
HOWEVER, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOU.
NOT EVEN WHERE YOU LIVE, OR YOUR NAME... I CANNOT EASILY BELIEVE YOU.

I AM
JOHN SERIAS FROM TALOS VILLAGE.
ALLEN SERIAS ...
THE SWORDSMAN WHOM YOU FOUGHT BEFORE, IS MY FATHER.
JOHN ...

SO, TELL ME CHILD ...
TALOS VILLAGE... IS THAT THE SMALL VILLAGE AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE SON OF THAT POWERFUL WARRIOR, IS IT?
I SEE.... NOW I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR COURAGE.
SO, THAT'S WHERE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
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WHERE ALL OF THE PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO YOU LIVE?
YES...
DAMN IT! DID I MESS UP?

HA HA HA HA
HUMAN CHILD... JOHN. YOU ARE HONEST EVEN WHEN SPEAKING TO A MONSTER, AREN'T YOU?
CERTAINLY, I CAN NOW BELIEVE IN YOU. BUT... I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIX THAT LOOSE TONGUE OF YOURS.
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HUMAN CHILD JOHN, YOU ARE WORTHY OF BECOMING MY FRIEND.
FUFU... I AM PLEASED.
SUCH CLEAR EYES... YOU CAN EVEN SEE THROUGH THE HEARTS OF MONSTERS.

I SHALL NEVER HURT A FRIEND OF MINE.
YOU SHALL ALSO SWEAR TO DO THE SAME.
AND WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES, I SHALL WIELD MY POWER FOR YOUR SAKE.

HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS A PACT BETWEEN MEN.
IF YOU BETRAY ME, I SHALL GIVE YOU AN APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.
WHAT WILL YOU DO, JOHN? WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

...I UNDERSTAND, CRYSTAL WOLF.
BY BECOMING YOUR FRIEND, I SHALL LEND YOU MY POWER.
I SHALL RUN TO YOUR SIDE IF YOU EVER ARE IN A PREDICAMENT, AND FOR YOUR SAKE I SHALL RISK MY LIFE.

GOOD... I AS WELL SHALL SWEAR... BY BECOMING YOUR FRIEND I SHALL LEND YOU MY POWER.
AND I SHALL RUN TO YOUR SIDE IF YOU EVER ARE IN A PREDICAMENT, AND FOR YOUR SAKE I SHALL RISK MY LIFE.
AND NOW I SHALL GIVE YOU PROOF OF THIS VOW.

YOUR HORN ...!
THAT IS THE PROOF OF MY VOW.
WHAT SHALL YOU GIVE ME?

FUFU... I WOULDN'T MIND RECEIVING THAT SWORD YOU CARRY AT YOUR WAIST.
AH?!
I...
WHAT PROOF COULD I...
ALL... ALL RIGHT. HERE IT IS....!
I ACCEPT.

THE HORN ...
HAS TURNED RED...!
WITH THIS, THE PACT IS COMPLETE.
I WISH YOU GOOD FORTUNE IN YOUR FUTURE, MY FRIEND.

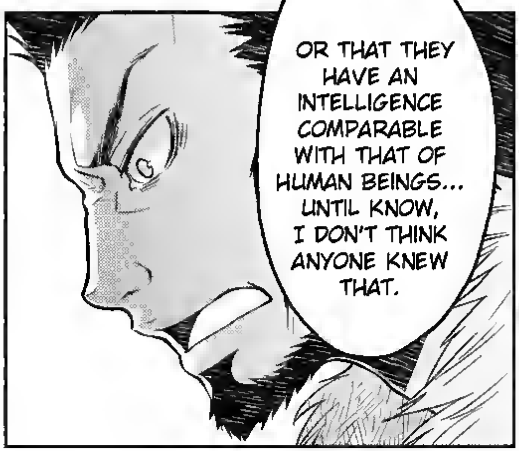
THANK YOU...
WHOA!

I LIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST... INSIDE OF THE HOLLOW OF THE SPIRIT TREE.
I WOULD WELCOME YOU IF YOU CAME TO VISIT ME AND PLAY WITH MY CHILDREN.
YEAH!
AH...
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MY FRIEND!
JOHN!

I HAVE NEVER EVEN HEARD MY FATHER SAY THAT MONSTERS COULD TALK.
DID YOU KNOW, MR. ALLEN?

HEY JOHN! WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?!

.....
THAT YOU CAN HOLD A CONVERSATION WITH A MONSTER


OR THAT THEY HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE COMPARABLE WITH THAT OF HUMAN BEINGS... UNTIL KNOW, I DON'T THINK ANYONE KNEW THAT.

NO...
I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER...

DESPITE THAT, YOU...
EVEN MANAGED TO FORM A PACT WITH A CRYSTAL WOLF.
FATHER ...

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AU!
AHH!
FATHER!
WAH... FATHER'S EYES LOOK REALLY BAD...
YES, SIR ...
YOU WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING IN DETAIL WHEN WE GET BACK HOME, WON'T YOU, JOHN?
... WHATEVER IT IS THAT HAPPENED ...

HOT CHOCOLATE SCANS

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This is the last chapter we'll be working on. We only did this because the scanlation for the first three chapters were a hot mess. But, the chapters after 3 aren't bad enough to give us an excuse to work on them. They're up to date and everything, so the team decided that we should focus more on our other projects.

I really hope the future scanlations for Hiraheishi get better.
This manga's actually pretty good.

-GDAFF